

## THE PAST TENSES

**Exercise 1: Choose the best answer to complete each following sentence.**

1. The manager \_\_\_\_\_ the store before I arrived.  
A. closed            B. had closed    C. has closed            D. was closed
2. After he \_\_\_\_\_ his English course, he went to England to continue his study.  
A. has finish    B. had finished    C. was finished            D. would finish
3. While my father \_\_\_\_\_ a film on TV, my mother was cooking dinner.  
A. watched    B. was watching    C. had watched            D. watches
4. When I came to visit her last night, she \_\_\_\_\_ a bath.  
A. is having    B. was having    C. has had            D. had had
5. He \_\_\_\_\_ his Chinese course before he went to China to continue his business.  
A. will finish    B. has finished    C. had finished            D. will have finished
6. We \_\_\_\_\_ for going home when it began to rain.  
A. were preparing    B. are preparing    C. will be preparing    D. have prepared
7. John \_\_\_\_\_ in the same house since he left school.  
A. lived            B. had lived            C. was living            D. has lived
8. I had prepared dinner before I \_\_\_\_\_ to work.  
A. went            B. was going            C. had gone            D. is going
9. When she came into the hall, she \_\_\_\_\_ her arms to the audience, smiled and bowed deeply.  
A. opened            B. had opened    C. was opening            D. is opening
10. I have never played badminton before. This is the first time I \_\_\_\_\_ to play it.  
A. try            B. tried            C. have tried            D. am trying
11. When I last saw him, he \_\_\_\_\_ in London.  
A. has lived            B. is living            C. was living            D. has been living
12. By the age of 25, he \_\_\_\_\_ two famous novels.  
A. wrote            B. writes            C. has written            D. had written

13. When her husband was in the army, Mary \_\_\_\_\_ to him twice a week  
A. was writing    B. wrote    C. was written    D. had written
14. I have never played football before. This is the first time I \_\_\_\_\_ to play.  
A. try    B. tried    C. have tried    D. am trying
15. Since Tom \_\_\_\_\_, I have heard nothing from him.  
A. had left    B. left    C. has left    D. was left
16. After I \_\_\_\_\_ lunch, I looked for my bag.  
A. had    B. had had    C. will have had    D. have had
17. These were the highest words of praise they \_\_\_\_\_ from the old man.  
A. ever heard    B. have ever had    C. had ever had    D. will have ever heard
18. He fell down when he \_\_\_\_\_ towards the church.  
A. run    B. runs    C. was running    D. had run
19. Within a week she knew the fearful mistake she \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. made    B. has made    C. had made    D. was making
20. Before she went to bed, she \_\_\_\_\_ her homework already.  
A. finished    B. is finishing    C. had finished    D. was finishing
21. There \_\_\_\_\_ something vaguely familiar about her face but I couldn't remember where I \_\_\_\_\_ her before.  
A. is/ have met    B. was/ had met    C. will see/ meet    D. was/ met
22. She told me that her family \_\_\_\_\_ long in that town.  
A. has lived    B. had lived    C. lived    D. was living
23. By 8 o'clock yesterday, the spaceship \_\_\_\_\_ 20 hours around the earth.  
A. will travel    B. has been traveling  
C. had been traveling    D. will have been traveling
24. The child kept the present that she \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. has been given    B. had been given    C. had given    D. has given
25. That pipe \_\_\_\_\_ for ages-we must get it mended.  
A. has been leaking    B. has been leaked  
C. had been leaked    D. had been leaking

## EXERCISE 2

1. No sooner did he return from a long journey than he was ordered to pack his bags.  
A. did he return    B. long    C. than    D. was ordered
2. The crime rate in this city has increased from ten per cent last year to thirty percent by the end of 2019 due to the influx of the gang element.  
A. has increased    B. to    C. due to    D. influx
3. At this time last year, I am attending an English course in America.  
A. At this time    B. am attending    C. an    D. in
4. When we got home last night, we found that somebody broke into the flat.  
A. got    B. found    C. somebody    D. broke
5. While the plumber was repairing the dishwasher, I had watched the smartphone.  
A. plumber    B. was repairing    C. had watched    D. the
6. When their dad got home, the boys had been watching TV for three hours.  
A. When    B. got    C. had been watching    D. for
7. She washed the dishes when her parents came back home.  
A. washed    B. dishes    C. when    D. came
8. That evening we had stayed up to talk about the town, where he had lived for some years.  
A. That    B. had stayed    C. where    D. had lived
9. It is the worst dish that I ever tried in my life.  
A. is    B. worst    C. that    D. tried
10. At first I thought I did the right thing, but soon I realized that I'd made a serious mistake.  
A. At first    B. did    C. realized    D. serious